

- Upon your request, a certificate of attendance (for youth detained less than 10 days) or a transcript (for youth detained 10 or more days) will be available for you so that you can share with your child's school district.

**Medical:** DYS programs employ licensed medical staff who provide routine medical care while your child is in detention. Should a child have an urgent medical need, it will be coordinated through a local hospital. While detained, youth have health insurance coverage through MassHealth. If your child is on medication (including psychotropic medication), medical and clinical staff will contact your child's outpatient prescriber to facilitate continuation of your child's medication regime. **DYS will seek parent input to best understand any medical needs of your child.**

#### **Clinical and Support Services:**

- Upon placement, your child will be assigned a clinician and a staff advocate.
- Both the clinician and advocate will meet with your child regularly in order to facilitate your child's adjustment to the placement.
- Clinical staff will reach out to families to discuss any concerns related to your child's needs.
- Your child may also participate in weekly groups geared toward teaching coping skills and Substance Abuse Prevention Groups. Clinical Staff will also provide crisis intervention

### **What DYS Asks of You**

- Respect for staff and property.
- No contraband. This includes cell phones, electronic devices, money, or any food brought into DYS programs.

- Your partnership as we work together to ensure the best outcome for your child.
- Background information that may aid in caring for your child (e.g., mental health and treatment history, medical information, current medications, and contact information for

### **How do I find out where my child has been placed after he/she leaves the Court?**

#### **Detention Coordinators**

Each of the five DYS Regions have Detention Coordinators. In order to find out where your child has been placed, contact the Detention Coordinator in the geographical region of your child's primary residence.

**Central Region** (Worcester County):  
508-368-4246

**Metro Region** (Suffolk County):  
617-740-0211 or 617-740-0212

**Northeast Region** (Middlesex, Essex counties):  
978-646-2300, Ext 311 or 312

**Southeast Region** (Plymouth, Bristol, Norfolk, Cape & Islands):  
508-828-3838

**Western Region** (Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, Berkshire counties):  
413-846-5210, 413-846-5184

Visit our website for more information:

**[www.mass.gov/dys](http://www.mass.gov/dys)**

# Massachusetts Department of Youth Services



### **For Parents/Guardians of youth who are newly detained**

- ♦ Where will my child be placed?
- ♦ What can I expect?
- ♦ What does DYS expect from me?
- ♦ When can I see/speak with my child?
- ♦ How can I reach someone at DYS?

## Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

JDAI in Massachusetts works to ensure “the right youth, is in the right place, for the right reasons.” JDAI is a public safety partnership focused on reducing the unnecessary and harmful use of secure detention for low-risk juveniles. The DYS/JDAI works to establish more effective and efficient Alternatives to Detention with the goal of achieving better outcomes for our youth and our communities.

### How does DYS determine where will my child will be placed now that he/she has been detained?

Youth who are placed on bail are screened utilizing a Detention Placement Instrument (DPI) and professional interview. Based on the screening, geography, and program availability, the youth is referred to placement.

#### Types of Detention Placement

- ◆ Community Based
- ◆ Shelter Care
- ◆ Secure Detention

## Alternatives to Detention Regional Reception Centers

Regional Reception Centers (RRC's) are a community based option for detention currently available in Worcester and Suffolk counties for low risk detainees.

When appropriate, the RRC's place youth in an alternative home. Youth placed through the Regional Reception Center are monitored by RRC staff throughout their detainment. The degree of monitoring is tailored to the individual youth's needs; however, at a minimum, Reception Center staff speak with the youth by phone every day and transport the youth to and from their home school.

DYS makes every effort to assist youth placed in alternative homes with continuing to receive services from their community provider.

### Alternatives to Detention Shelter Care

Shelter care placements may have locked outside doors and windows but trained staff provide security supervision. These placements are less restrictive than secure detention placements.

Currently, there are shelter care programs for boys located in the Northeast, Western, and Southeast regions. There is one state-wide shelter care program for girls located in the Central Region.

### Secure Detention Placements

Secure Detention Placements are in buildings with locked outside doors, locked bedroom doors, and locked and screened windows. In addition, there is restricted client movement. These are the most secure DYS detention facilities. There are secure detention facilities in all DYS Regions.

## What Can I Expect from DYS

- An information packet including the grievance process.
- That someone will return your phone calls.
- Information on how your child is doing.
- Translator services if needed.
- Unless otherwise indicated, regular visits and phone contact with your child.
- Your child will receive education, medical, and mental health support.

**Contact:** Phone contact and visits are encouraged with family members. Calls and visits occur during specific times unless special circumstances exist and other arrangements are made. Staff will initiate all outgoing calls and will remain near the phone to monitor the tone of the conversation. Please note that certain items (e.g., cell phones) cannot be brought into programs. These items must either be left in your vehicles or placed in lockers provided in the facilities.

**Education:** Your child will be expected to participate in school.

- Licensed teachers provide education in DYS facilities.
- Your child will receive instruction in English Language Arts, math, science, and social studies and any other classes (e.g., physical education and health education) offered by the teachers, as the material is geared toward each child's level of education.